

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Coking Plants in Czechoslovakia; Miscellaneous Information on United Steelworks and the Vitkovice Ironworks

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1. Before World War II all the coke manufacturing plants in Czechoslovakia were concentrated in the Moravska Ostrava area. During the war it was decided that coke ovens should be established at the Konev plant (formerly the Prager Eisengesellschaft) in order to overcome the difficulties in transporting the coke from Ostrava to Kladno. It was discovered that North Bohemian coal was unsuitable for coking that coal must be transported to the Kladno ovens from the Ostrava region. The Kladno coke ovens were built by Krupp and are the largest in Czechoslovakia and the most modern in Central Europe. Except for the gas plants, which produce low-grade coke as a by-product, the only other coking plants in Czechoslovakia are at the Skoda Steelworks in Pilsen, at Trinec and two at Vitkovice. It is believed that a new coking plant of the Konev type is being built at the Vitkovice plant in Kuncice to replace one of the older Vitkovice ovens.
2. The Poldi Steelworks in Kladno, part of the United Steelworks, uses the raw iron produced by the Konev Foundries in Kladno and the Vitkovice Ironworks to produce special high-grade steels. The Konev Steelworks produces armor plate. The only other armor plate producing plant in Czechoslovakia is the Vitkovice Ironworks.
3. There are eight blast furnaces at the Vitkovice Ironworks, four rather old furnaces known as Zofinska Hut, which form a distinct complex north of the rest of the Vitkovice plant, and four newer ones known as Ureditelstvi, in the same area as the administrative buildings. The Manager of the Vitkovice Ironworks is Dr. Ing. Steiner, who replaced Dr. Ing. Bochny. Steiner was formerly manager of the Trinec plant of Banska a Hutni National Corporation. The manager of the Engineering Works, which form part of the Vitkovice complex, is Ing. Mil Bednar, a Communist. His deputy is Ing. Cerny, a Communist.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 20 October 1949 from the State Department to the Department of Defense.

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